CLAIMS

We claim:

1.	A method for remotely monitoring and/or controlling a home device performed on a web-based host, the method comprising:

	establishing a connection with a remote device;

	receiving monitoring and/or control information from the remote device;

	establishing a connection with a home; and

	communicating the monitoring and/or control information to the home, wherein the monitoring and/or control information causes monitoring information to be obtained from a home device in the home and/or causes the a home device in the home to be controlled.

2.	The method of Claim 1 further comprising:

	receiving authentication information from the remote device; and

	determining at the web-based host whether a user of the remote device has permission to access the home.

3.	The method of Claim 1 further comprising:

	communicating graphical interface files to the remote device, the graphical interface files for allowing a user of the remote device to select a home device to monitor and/or control and for allowing the user of the remote device to specify how to monitor and/or control the home device.

4.	The method of Claim 1 further comprising:

encrypting the monitoring and/or control information before the monitoring and/or control information is communicated to the home.

5. The method of Claim 1 further comprising:

receiving home device status information in response to the step of communicating the monitoring and/or control information from the web-based host to the home; and

communicating the home device status information to the remote device.

6. The method of Claim 1 further comprising:

establishing a connection with the home if a home device in the home has detected an event;

receiving information which describes the event; and

communicating the information which describes the event to a user.

7. The method of Claim 1 wherein the remote device is a wireless telephone, a wireless personal digital assistant, or a wireless computer.

8. The method of Claim 1 wherein the remote device is a wired telephone, a wired personal digital assistant, or a wired computer.

9. A computer system for remotely monitoring and/or controlling a home device, the computer system comprising:

one or more computers connected to one or more remote devices via a network;

one or more computer programs executable by the computers, wherein the computer programs comprise computer instructions for:

establishing a connection with a remote device;

receiving monitoring and/or control information from the remote device;

establishing a connection with a home; and

communicating the monitoring and/or control information to the home, wherein the monitoring and/or control information causes monitoring information to be obtained from a home device in the home and/or causes the a home device in the home to be controlled.

10. The computer system of Claim 9 wherein the computer programs further comprise computer instructions for:

receiving authentication information from the remote device; and

determining at the web-based host whether a user of the remote device has permission to access the home.

11. The computer system of Claim 9 wherein the computer programs further comprise computer instructions for:

communicating graphical interface files to the remote device, the graphical interface files for allowing a user of the remote device to select a home device to monitor and/or control and for allowing the user of the remote device to specify how to monitor and/or control the home device.

12. The computer system of Claim 9 wherein the computer programs further comprise computer instructions for:

encrypting the monitoring and/or control information before the monitoring and/or control information is communicated to the home.

13.   The computer system of Claim 9 wherein the computer programs further comprise computer instructions for:

receiving home device status information in response to the step of communicating the monitoring and/or control information from the web-based host to the home; and

communicating the home device status information to the remote device.

14.   The computer system of Claim 9 wherein the computer programs further comprise computer instructions for:

establishing a connection with the home if a home device in the home has detected an event;

receiving information which describes the event; and

communicating the information which describes the event to a user.

15.   The computer system of Claim 9 wherein the remote device is a wireless telephone, a wireless personal digital assistant, or a wireless computer.

16.   The computer system of Claim 9 wherein the remote device is a wired telephone, a wired personal digital assistant, or a wired computer.

17.   A computer readable storage medium storing one or more computer

programs executable by one or more computers, one or more of the computer programs

comprising computer instructions for:

establishing a connection with a remote device;

5   receiving monitoring and/or control information from the remote device;

establishing a connection with a home; and

communicating the monitoring and/or control information to the home,

wherein the monitoring and/or control information causes monitoring

information to be obtained from a home device in the home and/or causes the a

10   home device in the home to be controlled.

18.   The computer readable storage medium of Claim 17 wherein the

computer programs further comprise computer instructions for:

receiving authentication information from the remote device; and

15   determining at the web-based host whether a user of the remote device

has permission to access the home.

19.   The computer readable storage medium of Claim 17 wherein the

computer programs further comprise computer instructions for:

20   communicating graphical interface files to the remote device, the

graphical interface files for allowing a user of the remote device to select a

home device to monitor and/or control and for allowing the user of the remote

device to specify how to monitor and/or control the home device.

20. The computer readable storage medium of Claim 17 wherein the computer programs further comprise computer instructions for:

encrypting the monitoring and/or control information before the monitoring and/or control information is communicated to the home.

21. The computer readable storage medium of Claim 17 wherein the computer programs further comprise computer instructions for:

receiving home device status information in response to the step of communicating the monitoring and/or control information from the web-based host to the home; and

communicating the home device status information to the remote device.

22. The computer readable storage medium of Claim 17 wherein the computer programs further comprise computer instructions for:

establishing a connection with the home if a home device in the home has detected an event;

receiving information which describes the event; and

communicating the information which describes the event to a user.

23. The computer readable storage medium of Claim 17 wherein the remote device is a wireless telephone, a wireless personal digital assistant, or a wireless computer.

24. The computer readable storage medium of Claim 17 wherein the remote device is a wired telephone, a wired personal digital assistant, or a wired computer.

-30-

25. A method for monitoring and/or controlling a home device performed on a home attendant, the method comprising:

establishing a connection with a web-based host; and

receiving monitoring and/or control information from the web-based host.

26. The method of Claim 25 further comprising:

communicating the monitoring and/or control information to a home device thereby causing monitoring information to be obtained from the home device and/or causing the home device to be controlled.

27. The method of Claim 25 further comprising:

communicating with a home device to determine whether the home device has detected an event; and

if an event has been detected by the home device, establishing a secure connection with the web-based host and communicating the event to the web-based host.

28. The method of Claim 25 further comprising:

communicating with a home device via a radio frequency connection.

29. The method of Claim 25 further comprising:

communicating with a home device via a powerline connection.

30. The method of Claim 25 wherein the home device is a stand-alone device, a peripheral device, a personal computer, or a television set-top box.

31. An apparatus for monitoring and/or controlling a home device, the

5 apparatus comprising:

a microprocessor;

a memory connected to the microprocessor; and

one or more computer programs executable by the microprocessor,

wherein the computer programs comprise computer instructions for:

10 establishing a connection with a web-based host; and

receiving monitoring and/or control information from the web-

based host.

32. The apparatus of Claim 31 further comprising:

15 communicating the monitoring and/or control information to a home

device thereby causing monitoring information to be obtained from the home

device and/or causing the home device to be controlled.

20 33. The apparatus of Claim 31 further comprising:

communicating with a home device to determine whether the home

device has detected an event; and

if an event has been detected by the home device, establishing a secure

connection with the web-based host and communicating the event to the web-

25 based host.

34.   The apparatus of Claim 31 further comprising:

communicating with a home device via a radio frequency connection.

5   35.   The apparatus of Claim 31 further comprising:

communicating with a home device via a powerline connection.

36.   The apparatus of Claim 31 wherein the home device is a stand-alone

device, a peripheral device, a personal computer, or a television set-top box.

10

37.   A computer readable storage medium storing one or more computer

programs executable by one or more computers, one or more of the computer programs

comprising computer instructions for:

establishing a connection with a web-based host; and

15   receiving monitoring and/or control information from the web-based

host.

38.   The computer readable storage medium of Claim 37 wherein the

computer programs further comprise computer instructions for:

20   communicating the monitoring and/or control information to a home

device thereby causing monitoring information to be obtained from the home

device and/or causing the home device to be controlled.

39.   The computer readable storage medium of Claim 37 wherein the computer programs further comprise computer instructions for:

communicating with a home device to determine whether the home device has detected an event; and

5   if an event has been detected by the home device, establishing a secure connection with the web-based host and communicating the event to the web-based host.

40.   The computer readable storage medium of Claim 37 wherein the

10   computer programs further comprise computer instructions for:

communicating with a home device via a radio frequency connection.

41.   The computer readable storage medium of Claim 37 wherein the computer programs further comprise computer instructions for:

15   communicating with a home device via a powerline connection.

42.   The computer readable storage medium of Claim 37 wherein the home device is a stand-alone device, a peripheral device, a personal computer, or a television set-top box.

20